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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8134
INFO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0907
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 0476
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY 2000
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0802
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY 0055
RUEHDS/USMISSION USAU ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
RUCNMGH/MAGHREB COLLECTIVE
RUEHDO/AMEMBASSY DOHA 0399
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0458
RHMFISS/COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
RHMFISS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE

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SUBJECT: MAURITANIA: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT ABDALLAHI TO
PRESIDENT OBAMA URGING SECURITY COUNCIL SUPPORT OF
SANCTIONS AGAINST THE JUNTA

¶1. (SBU) On Sunday, February 15, the Charge was asked to meet with the Chief of Staff of the Abdahllahi administration. The Chief of Staff, Ahmed Kaber Ould Hammoudi, passed the letter translated below from President Abdahllahi to President Obama. A scanned copy of the letter will be sent to AF/W. In the letter Abdallahahi refers to the AU's recently adopted targeted sactions against members of the junta and their key supporters and refers to the AU's intent to bring the issue before the United Nations Security Council. President Abdahllahi asks for president Obama's support for targeted sanctions against the regime of General Abdel Aziz and its supporters.

¶2. (SBU) The following text is an English translation of the original French:

BEGIN TEXT

Mr. President,

As you know, Mauritania experienced a military coup on 6 August 2008. This coup was directed against a President of the Republic elected for a 5-year term on 25 Marach 2007 in peaceful and transparent conditions that were universally welcomed by the international community.

For over six months, the military junta has been deaf to the appeals of the international community calling for the restoration of the constitutional order. Some countries, such as the United States and France, have already discontinued cooperation programs with Mauritania, and international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and Workd Bank have suspended their operations.

The African Union has recently adopted targeted sanctions agaিসnt members of the junta and those civilians who have assisted in maintaining the junta's illegal rule.

The Security Council will most likely be called upon by the African Union to decide on sanctions in order to grant them a universal character. As your country is a member of this honorable institution, I am writing to ask for your support for this request.

In doing so, you will contribute to the triumph of freedom

and democracy and help end unconstitutional changes of government, particularly in Africa, where they prevent the emancipation of people and their progress.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sidi Mohamed Ould CHEIKH ABDALLAHI

END TEXT
HANKINS